

THE BRANDON MAIL.

Thursday, April 25, 1895.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.

ENGINEER FARR SUSPECTED OF THE AWFUL CRIME.

A Chain of Evidence Almost Complete—His Betrayed Broken Heart—Escapes from Jail and Sees His Wife—Latest Particulars.

There never was a more diabolic attempt at murder and arson than that which was providentially averted in Winnipeg the other morning. Never was crime attended with such cruel and cold-blooded heartlessness, and it is scarcely credible, except upon the assumption that the culprit is insane, that any human being could be guilty of such atrociously wicked depravity. It is true that the evidence so far is purely circumstantial, but the links in the chain are slowly but surely fastening the perpetrator in their coils.

Mr. William Farr, an engineer on the C. P. R., was suspected and his arrest was made on purely suspicious actions and circumstantial evidence, and for hours they could elicit no fact that would indicate a motive for the crime. Friends of the accused were indignant that he, a man of hitherto unblemished reputation, should be suspected of setting fire to his own premises. But later circumstances developed, and particulars learned, that surprised those who were more directly interested in unearthing the motive for such a deliberate attempt to burn the buildings and their inmates. While the facts revealed have no direct bearing on the fire, nevertheless they demonstrate that the accused had been leading a double life, and that he had become implicated in a love affair which might have prompted him to take a desperate step to extricate himself. The facts elicited certainly strengthen the suspicions that he planned the incendiary, and have given grounds to the theory that his motive was love.

Incidentally it was learned that for some five years Farr had been keeping company with a young lady in the city, representing himself to her as a single man, and that Mrs. Farr and children were the widow and orphans of a deceased brother. This questionable conduct on his part has been commented on by many for some time, and friends of the young lady acquainted her with the true state of affairs, but he was always able to relieve her mind, and she was anything but what he claimed to be.

Nearly two years ago a fellow worker with the unfortunate girl, whose brothers happened to be railroad men, told her that Farr was married man. At that time he was running an engine on the Moose Jaw division, and she wrote him asking an explanation of the reports which had reached her. The reply came—an explicit denial—and it was written in such an honest, manly, straightforward manner that the young girl, who it appears was infatuated with the man, was convinced of his innocence. The intimacy between the two had passed beyond friendship, and the young woman was patiently waiting for him to fulfil his promise of marriage. This ceremony was being delayed at the request of Farr, who intimated to his affianced that he had promised his brother when dying, to remain with the children till they had grown to an age that they could look after themselves. These facts were a surprise to the relatives and intimate acquaintances of the family, and have largely withdrawn any sympathy that at first might have existed with the accused. It is remarkable that none of them had the least suspicion of the duplicity and faithlessness of Farr; on the contrary he was looked on as an exemplary husband and father, and was held in high esteem in social circles. The police located the young lady and located her name, Maggie Robinson, and she is a dressmaker in a fashionable Main street establishment. It appears that Farr has been in the service of the C. P. R. for many years as a locomotive engineer, but some six years ago for the benefit of his health, devoted a season in business as a stationer in Minneapolis. It was about this time that he became acquainted with Miss Robinson, in Minneapolis and Rapid City, where she was employed as a dining room girl in a hotel. The intimacy developed, and on Farr resuming his former position on the railroad, the young woman came of her own accord into the city, securing a comfortable home with Mrs. Thompson, on Adelaide street, and she secured work as a dressmaker. He was very attentive, spending much of his time with the young woman, escorting her to the theatre and other amusements, and very frequently when not at work meeting her at noon and at six o'clock on leaving the place where she was employed. For the past eight successive Sunday evenings he escorted her to church, but not attending the Westminster to which he sometimes accompanied his wife in the morning; and for a long time he had taken tea at Mrs. Thompson's with Miss Robinson, whose first intimation of the cruel and deceptive conduct of her intended husband came with a crushing blow, and she could scarce realize that she had been the innocent cause of the commission of so terrible a crime. With the fullest and most implicit confidence in Farr, she had become infatuated with him, although he possessed no attractive or prepossessing qualities, being a person of rather ordinary appearance, while she is pretty and of striking petite figure and might be called stylish, and always dressed modestly and in good taste. Farr's attentions to Miss Robinson were most marked, and he made her the recipient of many costly and handsome presents—his Christmas gift being a valuable seal skin set. Those acquainted with the above facts are surprised that Farr's family and relatives had not become cognizant of his conduct, but all were entirely ignorant and were startled on knowing the details. Mr. W. D. Russell, a brother of Mrs. Farr, accompanied the police authorities and had an interview with the young lady, when some of the particulars were confirmed. Miss Robinson is completely prostrated, and has been confined to her room ever since she first heard of the cruel duplicity practised upon her.

In conversation with the young ladies with whom she worked, she was highly spoken of as a modest conscientious girl of irreproachable character, a steady faithful employee, always at her post of

duty, and who did her work cheerfully and well. They cannot understand how their comrade could be so systematically deceived—they can only sympathize with her in her dark trouble.

It was understood in a general way between the two that the wedding would take place next summer, but Miss Robinson had made no preparation for it, being content to wait until Farr had been released from the sacred promise he told her he had made to his brother. While working on the case police received intimation that Farr recently placed an insurance of \$10,000 on his wife, but this has not yet been confirmed, though the authorities consider their source of information reliable, and will make further enquiries. If this should prove true, the case against Farr will be strengthened, and it will materially corroborate the belief that he intended in burning the building, to add the crime of murder, for had the flames made any headway it would have been impossible for Mrs. Farr and children to have made their escape, as the fire would have raged most fiercely at all points of exit. It was villainously conceived and the cold-blooded manner in which it was carried out, has stirred the indignation of the public. For Mrs. Farr and children all experience the sincerest sympathy, and pleasure is expressed that the fire was so providently extinguished. The poor woman has been completely prostrated since the morning of the fire.

Interest in the case was intensified on it becoming known that Farr had escaped from the police station. The accused not having been arraigned he was confined in the ante room adjoining the court house and station office. This room looks out onto a King street, but the lower sash of the window is boarded, and the entire west end protected by iron bars. There is a space of eighteen or twenty inches between the iron bar and window, and at the top two sashes are used for ventilation. The prisoner broke the upper edge of a chair, which he used as a lever to spread the bars, and as this was not wide enough a piece of wood was broken from a table in the room. Both bear marks of their use in straining the iron bars. While the opening was still narrow it is evident Farr worked his body through, and then climbed to the ventilation window, through which he gained his freedom. To let himself down to the sidewalk, without creating a noise, he untied a rope from one of the upper sashes, and thus lengthened the other, so that he could easily reach the ground. Farr is a mediumly stout man, weighing about 160 pounds, and to get through the iron bars it is thought he undressed, so as to more easily work his body through.

The escape was made between one and two o'clock, for immediately on getting out of the station Farr repaired to his home on Ross avenue and had an interview with his wife before two o'clock.



WILLIAM FARR.

He did not stay there long, but police officers have traced his subsequent steps to the C. P. R. yards, and it is supposed he stored himself in a carload of ties, which was attached to a train on the track and ready to leave for the west.

Chief McRae was early at the telegraph office, but up to noon had received no further information. All hands on the outgoing freight trains deny that Farr was a passenger, and state that they neither saw nor heard anything of his presence in the yard at the time of their leaving the city.

A Nor-West representative saw Miss Robinson—a pleasant mannered, gently spoken lady, whose kindly face was left unimpaired traces of recent heavy sorrow and deep grief, and in conversation she said:

"I cannot imagine it possible that Will Farr has been leading the double life he has. It is utterly past comprehension. He was so kind and gentle and generous and tender; he was so unlike what he really must have been that it has deceived me completely."

Then she went on to tell of her first meeting Farr in Rapid City; of his attentions to her; of her coming to Winnipeg to earn her own living four years ago unknown to Farr, and now after he had ascertained her presence here, he had resumed his attentions, escorting her to church, to the theatre, and always accompanying her in evening walks. "There was no concealment of his intentions to me," she said, "and he frequently introduced me to his personal friends, always found him a gentleman, with the kindest instincts; he spoke lovingly of his dead brother's children and his deep solicitude for them, that increased my admiration for him. He neither smoked, drank nor swore, or had any small vices. I had the most implicit faith in him—so much that even now I cannot realize the enormity of his conduct."

"You heard of his being a married man?"

"Yes, I heard," she said pitiously, "and I spoke to him about it, but his explanations were so clear and convincingly given that my suspicions were completely allayed. He told me that his brother on dying had entrusted his widow and her four little ones to his care, and that he was carrying out his sacred promise. He went so carefully into details that no one could disbelieve him; at any rate I did not. He always spoke of his love for the orphans, and I believed that he must be a good man who could sacrifice himself as he was doing for their sake. I was content, too, and although we had some talk in a general way of our wedding taking place next summer, no preparations were made for the event, and I was willing to abide the time he would be believed of some of his responsibility."

"And were you never suspicious that he was playing you false?"

"Only once, and then his explanations cleared away my doubts. I knew, of course, that he was living with whom I supposed was his widowed sister-in-law,

and I saw one day in one of the papers mention of a 'Mrs. W. Farr' in connection with some church work. I spoke to him about it and asked how that could be when he had told me his dead brother's name was James. He replied that it evidently was a mistake, and that he had a brother James, but that the dead one's name was Walter. Once when I spoke to him about these stories of his being married he wept bitterly and reproached me for not having confidence in him, and my faith was blindly restored. He repeated to Mrs. Thompson where I live—for I thought she would know who visited her house—the same story he had told me about his care for his dead brother's widow and children, and she believed him too."

"I often saw Mrs. Farr at Westminster church," she continued, "and I thought what a nice little delicate lady she was, and what lovely children she had—twice she was with her husband, or as I supposed her brother-in-law; but for some Sunday evenings past he came with me to other churches."

"When did you see him last?"

"On Good Friday, and then I find that he lied to me. He said he was going to see if he could go to work or not; instead of that he went home and had tea with his wife, and afterwards came and had tea at Mrs. Thompson's."

"I could not understand," she went on to say amidst tears, "when Chief McRae came to me, what connection I could possibly have with any trouble Will Farr could be in, and when he explained to me that his motive might be to marry me, I was sure that that was no reason for the perpetration of any crime. I insisted that he was not a married man, nor could the chief convince me—even when he told me that he had seen his marriage certificate—that he had been leading a double life all these years. I entreated to be taken to the cells and hear the lotteries from his own lips. The chief reluctantly consented, and I went. I was certain, I was confident that he would deny it, and when I crossed the cell and put my hands on his shoulders and asked him: 'Will, this is true; you are not married?' he cruelly replied: 'Yes, Maggie, you know what I told you long ago.' It was not true, he never told me; he always convinced me and the few friends I have that he was a single man, and I esteemed him more highly as an honorable man, because of his open and frank manner. He denied his guilt of the terrible accusation against him to me. But—"

And the poor girl again burst out in tears, and sobbed in a heartrending manner.

"And his poor deluded wife—I hear she still believes in his innocence. How my heart aches for her; how grateful I am that his double life was discovered in time—not for my sake alone, but much more for her's."

No one speaking with Miss Robinson would believe that she was otherwise than an innocent confiding victim of Farr's wiles. She is overwhelmed by the terrible blow which she has so suddenly suffered—is completely prostrated. She keenly realizes her position, and with becoming modesty wishes to avoid all publicity; but in her great grief she is more considerate of the feelings of others than of her own. She would have her parents and the poor suffering wife of the scoundrel who had deceived her. She was it is evident, completely deceived with Farr's specious explanations, for, as she says, it is incomprehensible that he would ever and before the eyes of his acquaintances may let the marked attention he did, while his wife and family were living in the same city.

ARMENIA MEANS WAR.

An Uprising of Armenians Promised Next Month.

Reports from Armenia of a recent date state that the Armenians are preparing for war. During the past few weeks money has poured into the revolutionary treasury in a very stream from the Armenian colonies in Batoum, Tiflis, Baku, Erivan, Baku, and other cities in Russia, and from Resht, Kazvin, Teheran, Tabriz, Eski and other cities in Persia, and arms are not lacking. The central idea of the plan of campaign is a general uprising of Armenians throughout the Turkish Empire, some time during the month of May. The leaders have promised the people of Armenia that the chief attack will be made on the city of Constantinople itself, and that the result of the fighting will be done by the Armenian residents therein, but this may be only a subterfuge to encourage the faint-hearted at Van, Bitlis and Mon. The leaders have even gone so far as to assert that the first attack will be made upon the palace of the sultan, and that the reign of Abdul Hamid will come to a sudden end. The young Turks, particularly those who have travelled abroad, ardently wish the young sultan anywhere except on the throne. The Armenians have at least 10,000 Martini-Henry rifles hidden in secret places in the mountains, not a great distance from Lake Van. For a handful of untrained Armenians to begin to fight 300,000 Turkish regulars is beyond conception or human belief, but the leaders, mainly young Armenians, claim that with no good results. It may as well as not be lost in the struggle for liberty. Palestine, the birthplace of Christianity, may also be brought into the revolution. They are genuine patriots, and believe that to free Armenia from the dreadful condition into which it has sunk they must surrender some of their countrymen to torture, outrage and death.

Richard H. Horne, of Victoria, B. C., was burned to death recently.

JOY IN QUEBEC.

A LADY SAVED.

Life Was a Burden and All Remedies Failed Till B. B. B. Was Tried. Now Digestion is Perfect, and Health Has Returned.

DEAR SIR:—Until lately I suffered continually from Headache caused by Constipation, which rendered by life a burden to myself and to others. After trying doctors and remedies without number and with no good results, I was advised to try B. B. B. I now rejoice that I did so, for two bottles have completely cured me. I now eat well, and my digestion is perfect. I believe there is no remedy equal to B. B. B., and I recommend it to all sufferers.

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TORONTO SENSATION.

Two Night Watchmen and an Engineer Arrested as Fire Binge.

Night Watchmen Wickie and Spratt, of the Holmes Electric Protection Company, Toronto, were arrested the other night on a charge of incendiaryism, a coroner's jury having declared them to be concerned in the great fire of March 3, which destroyed Simpson's big department store, and other business premises, involving a loss of over a million dollars. William Farley, engineer for the Simpson building was also arrested on a charge of being implicated in the fire. A warrant is out for the arrest of a former man named Livingstone, on a similar charge.

A HAPPY CHOICE.

AFTER 25 YEARS

A Wise Mother Chooses the Right Medicine, and Her Son Tells of Its Wonderful Effect.

GENTLEMEN:—In the Spring of 1891 I got a bottle of B. B. B. for my mother, who had been troubled for 25 years with sick headache. I got it from Mr. H. Paxton Baird, of Hartford, N. B., who gave me two other medicines to take home and give my mother her choice. Fortunately she chose the B. B. B., and I returned the other bottles. She used it for three months, and has had no headache since. We are sure it was B. B. B. which she has taken no other medicine.

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CHEAP TRIP TO EUROPE.

BUT IT HAS ACTUALLY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AT THE FIGURES.

Being the Continent in a Most Interesting and Inexpensive Manner—Dinner in Cardinal Richelieu's Palace for Thirty-five Cents.

Thinking of going to Europe and back in a hurry, and on the whole, the best way to do it is to go by the sea, and on the other side you can do your touring on foot, as Liepzig and the coast will be fifty cents a day.

Mr. Morley wrote a book on the subject of his trip, and on a cheap trip on the Continent. Beginning with Sicily and the southern part of Italy, where the first-class hotels only charge thirty cents to forty cents for thirty days, the price is very little by little, until in Belgium and Holland, countries immediately across the channel from England, sixty cents to eighty cents is the charge for second or third rate hotels. This is the price paid by Americans and English who travel in England and America prices—\$2 a day. Hotels of the same class frequently charge in Italy from eighty cents to \$1 a day, while private lodgings of a respectable character for thirty days cost only twenty cents to thirty cents a night. The price of lodging for a man is very small—four cents if you are willing to room with others, and only fifteen cents where you have a bed and a room to yourself.

And your food. For thirty cents you may get a pound of excellent black bread, a large bowl of milk with two cents; a plate of macaroni three cents; five fish for a penny, and a quart of soup for eight to twelve cents. This diet is varied occasionally by an egg omelet or something of that character. While traveling with the working classes for the purpose of studying their condition and general mode of living, my daily expenditure for food in Naples averaged seven cents and lodging four cents, making the total cost of living per day in Naples twenty-one cents.

In Venice you can find any number of rooms at fifteen cents a day, and including breakfast, for the first four and ten cents for each hour thereafter. The price is the same for one or four persons.

The cheapest hotels mentioned in any of the guide books for Italy, but you can find a very nice room not mentioned in the guide books for seventeen cents. I got my meals at a Greek restaurant for three and a half cents, to four cents each, consisting, nearly every time, of a piece of bread and a plate of rice, macaroni or potatoes.

In Berlin I assumed considerable style, occupying a front room on the third floor of a house on Friedrich street, the principal street of the city. The room was carpeted. There were white curtains at the window. The furniture was plain but neat—all together, it was a very cozy, snug little room, with pretty, rose-colored walls. A single bed, with a very good mattress, for thirty-six cents a day. My dinner in Berlin cost twenty cents. There were cheaper places, but I was becoming extravagant. My dinner for twenty-four cents consisted of soup, a piece of meat, vegetables, dessert of fruit, and beer or soda water.

In Paris it is possible to live very cheaply. On Sundays I got my dinner in excellent style at Cardinal Richelieu's palace, an excellent dinner for thirty-five cents. On week days frequent cheap and less aristocratic quarters, where I could study the working people of Paris. Connected with one of the largest bazars in Paris is a restaurant where 3,000 people eat daily at a cost not exceeding fifteen cents each.

The most important item of living in Paris is fuel. I had a cozy little room on the Rue de la Harpe, where I paid fifteen cents a night. Wood sells by the pound. A single stick costs five cents. I found it much cheaper to go to the theatre on a winter night than to remain in my room. I saw Bernhard for ten cents, while, had I remained in my room, twenty cents worth of wood would have been required to keep me in comfort.

Below are the figures given by this eccentric traveler as the lowest rates for traveling in Europe. Beginning with the shortest passage across the Atlantic at the present low rate of \$10, we have:

From New York to Naples, 4.66 miles, \$9.

Railroad fare in Italy, taking in Naples, Rome, Florence, Pisa, Bologna, Venice, Milan, Como, 506 miles, \$11.11.

Railroad fares in Switzerland, \$7.25.

Railroad fares in Germany, taking in St. Louis, Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Munich, 281 miles, \$14.20.

Railroad fares and Danube boat fares in Austria, taking in Linz, Vienna, Buda Pesth, 360.

Boat fare to Constantinople from Budapest, \$12.60.

Constantinople to Odessa, Black Sea passage, \$5.

Odessa to Berlin, taking in Kijew, Moscow, St. Petersburg, 2,220 miles, \$31.40.

Berlin to Cologne, 204 miles, \$8.50.

Cologne to Paris, 255 miles, \$8.75.

Paris to London, 255 miles, second class, \$9.50.

London to New York, \$15.

Total cost of transportation from New York and back, \$120.87.

The distance covered is nearly, if not exactly, 11,000 miles, 7,000 of which on steamers includes subsistence as well as transportation.

A year's subsistence at half a dollar a day amounts to \$182.50, thus the entire cost of a year's trip, embracing overland and steamship travel, and the cost of food, is \$303.37, if you are willing to travel second class and third class and foot it at times.

On the Decay of Paper.

The introduction of wood fibre into the manufacture of paper, its economical production and the attractiveness of the article so produced have combined to tempt the paper maker not to make for "all time," but for the day, and only sufficient for the day is the evil there.

Modern methods of book illustrations require a paper of fine, even surface, with the property of semi-absorption of print ink, and this latter requirement has resulted in the very remarkable use of what is known as "half-sized paper," i. e., paper which has but a small proportion of gelatine, or other size, on which the permanent cohesion of the paper depends. Such paper cannot resist the influence of temperature and humidity to which all books are exposed, and thus ultimate decay is probable.

HOW PEANUTS GROW.

They Start in the Air and Afterward Burrow Into the Ground.

Most residents of the north have wholly erroneous ideas about the way in which peanuts grow. If questioned on the subject, nine persons out of ten would probably answer with confidence that this favorite luxury of drowsy dining youth is a root development, much as potatoes are. That peanuts, when ripe are dug out of the earth is true, but they begin operations in the air and never have anything to do with the roots of their parent vine. From a bulletin issued by the department of agriculture is gleaned the following information on this interesting subject:

"The blossom of the peanut is at the end of a long, pedicel-like stalk, the ovary being at the base. After the fall of the flower, the pedicel, or 'spike,' elongates and bends downward, pushing several inches into the ground, where the ovary at its extremity begins to enlarge and develop into a pod. The pedicel, wrinkled, slightly curved, often contracted in the middle, containing from one to three seeds. Should the 'spike' by accident not be enabled to thrust its point in the ground within a few hours after the fall of the flower it withers and dies.

"More or less abundantly scattered over the roots of the peanut plant are warts of about the size of a pinhead, or larger. These tubercles, as they are called, are very minute organisms. These bacteria play a very important part in the life history of the plant. Within them, while in a fresh or growing state, may be seen, by the aid of a good microscope, myriads of very minute organisms. These bacteria are the cause of the tubercles supplied from the roots, but at the same time they take from the air and elaborate for the use of the plant considerable quantities of nitrogen. Nitrogen is the most essential element that must be supplied to plants as fertilizers. The organisms living in these porous tubercles take it abundantly from the air, of which it comprises about five-fifths, and supply it to the plant without any cost. In this way a total amount of nitrogen is often acquired by the plant far in excess of the amount analyses show to be present and available in the soil.

"Like many other extensively cultivated plants, the peanut has not been found in the wild state. It is difficult to fix upon its habitat. So widely has it been cultivated in eastern countries that some botanists have attempted to trace its spread from China and Japan, thence through the East Indies, to India, and thence to Africa, where in the seventeenth century it was so extensively cultivated and had become such an important article of native food that the slaveholders loaded their vessels with it, using it as food for their negroes or captives. But the weight of authority seems to be in favor of accepting it as a native of Brazil, thus adding the peanut to the four other plants of commercial importance which have been introduced from the Old World to the New—namely, cotton, Indian corn, potato and tobacco. Though it may be a native of the western continent, it early became a largely cultivated plant in the warmer portions of the old world, and has since been introduced into the agriculture of those countries long before its merits were recognized in the land of its origin."

The Arabs of Sinai.

Each night we called a council after dinner and discussed many things with them. Our hunters were summoned, and their long, slender, and very thin faces peered through the tent door into the light, and when the conference was over they received a handful of tobacco, coveted even more than food. These men, who were so much to be depended upon as we could desire, but their advice was not always sound.

They are like children and think that, if they have observed a thing once it will always recur. In my opinion the sinister reputation which has to some extent attached to these Arabs of Sinai since the tragic murder of Professor Palmer at the time of the Arabi rebellion is undeserved. They were probably induced by secret messages from Cairo to commit the mission to obtain camels as an act of war, and they treated him and his companions as they and their people have always treated their enemies.

I found them trustworthy. They drive a hard bargain, but, this said, the conditions are kept faithfully. Their goats are tended on the mountains by the unmarried girls, a sure sign of good manners. My daughters soon found that they could wander unattended with safety from camp to camp, secure of an unaffected gracious reception from any casual tent dweller that they met. Could this be said of any civilized country on the shores of the Mediterranean?

The First Suez Canal.

According to Herodotus, Pharaoh Necho, 460 years before the Christian era, conceived the project of a canal, which he intended to branch out from the Nile and traversing the desert to the head of the gulf of Suez. When about half completed, and after the expenditure of an incredible amount of labor, the Nile suddenly abandoned its course to an arched which the king had consulted warning him that if the enterprise was completed it would be for the benefit of his enemies, the barbarians, and probably entangle the nation in foreign complications.

The work was subsequently completed by Ptolemy II and afterward restored by Trajan. The Grand canal was stated as being far superior to any other canal in the known world. Its breadth was such that it could accommodate the largest sailing ship, and by it the riches and merchandise of the east were conveyed from the Red sea to the Nile, and thence to the Mediterranean. Strong opposition was raised during the construction, on the ground that the canal would be the means of flooding it. To overcome this difficulty a dam, or sluice, was placed across it, with doors which opened to give passage to the vessels, and then were closed again. After the lapse of several centuries this canal was allowed to go to ruin but traces of it still remain.

A Family of Fish.

A New-Yorker sitting on the edge of a small Adirondack lake was attracted by a school of tiny fish that seemed to move in remarkable unison. Watching for a long time, he discovered that the infant fish were guarded by the parents, for whenever the young began to stray they were driven back into the school by a large fish on one side or the other, and whenever a strange fish approached, one of the guardians rushed at him and drove him off. The watcher noted the movements of several small schools for two hours, and noted that the little creatures were tended like a drove of sheep.

POST-DINNER ORATORY.

BOTTLED ELOQUENCE UNCORRECTED AT MEETINGS.

A Tiresome Experience for the Average Citizen—Brilliant Post-Prandial Speakers Are Always in Demand—The Danger of the Wall-Flowers Being Bored.

We have come upon an age of dinners and oratory, and the inclination to mix the two is leading to interesting consequences. It is a matter of easy calculation to show that from the first of November to the first of June the public dinners given in this country average more than a hundred a night, and as there are at least six speeches at each, the total is usually impressive. At many of these dinners, says Frank Leslie's Weekly, the same stories are told; a speaker who only knows a happy illustration or a successful pun but is not needed wherever his performance is known. "I wish I had said that," said Oscar Wilde to Whistler, after one of Whistler's best epigrams. "Oh, but you will say it," responds the mercurial painter. It is largely that way with after-dinner oratory, and we may well inquire where the fashion is going to end unless it is more judiciously directed.

There is an awful suspicion that the people who buy ten dollar and twenty dollar tickets, and who simply eat and drink and listen, may get tired of being bored. It is one of the disadvantages of the growth of total abstinence that it makes the after-dinner speaker a very awkward figure. The speaker who is not a member of the banquet party, very little about the quality of the speeches. All that he hopes to do is to keep his eyes open, his body steady, and his mind unimpaired. He is not to show that he is bored, but he is the soberest man in the company. It is easy for a prosy speaker to work off moss-covered anecdotes upon an intellectual crowd in the quiet of the evening, to sing "For he's a jolly good fellow," when they really think he is not. But now, adds temperance, even at banquets, is distinctly unfashionable. The many who are taken to the banquet are drunk. The quality is praised, while the man who "goes in" for mere quantity is set down as a vulgarian. 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THE MAIL PUBLISHING CO.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23rd, 1903.

CREeping THROUGH A SMALL HOLE.

Sifton appears to be a genius in his own way. In Halimand's "other day" he said his government was determined from dealing with the school question, as from the rest of the order, they had to either re-establish separate schools as they stood before the Act of 1890, or do nothing at all, and they chose the latter. To say nothing of the impropriety, to put the matter mildly, of his disclosing the government's intention in public before it has been communicated to the Lieut.-Governor and explained on the floor of the House, he knows he is telling an untruth, and what is worse, he is telling it for the political capital it may create.

Mr. Sifton knows the Federal government's document is merely the finding of the Privy Council with a request that the matter be disposed of by the local authorities. The Federal government merely says it is declared by the highest court in the realm your act of 1890 deprives the minority of certain rights and privileges they previously enjoyed, and they ask us to see that this matter is amicably settled. Under this circumstance if there was a satisfactory arrangement made, no matter what its terms were, if it was acceptable all around, the local government in answering the Federal government would give assurance a settlement was reached, and that would end it. If the appeal to the Federal House was withdrawn that would end it, there would then be nothing further for the Commons to take cognizance of any more than there is for a court to deal with a question after a case is withdrawn from the docket. Mr. Sifton knows this as well as a man can know anything, and yet he puts the positive construction on it that the question may continue in agitation.

Now, whether or not it is possible that the Manitoba government, having in view the wishes of the people, could make the minority such an offer as they would accept, we are not, of course, in a position to say, but there should at least in this adjournment of the legislature have been a conference with the dissatisfied element to ascertain what could be done. As a matter of fact Mr. Sifton is perfectly justified in saying Separate Schools as they existed before cannot be conceded because neither the interests of the country nor the feeling of the people would allow it; but doubtless sooner than continue a strife that most residents in much less than ample satisfaction in the end, the minority would have consented to some settlement that would not work injuriously to the interests of the people.

Taking all the circumstances into account, the local government must be held responsible for the neglect of action. If the Federal government adopts a measure forcing the late system of Separate Schools upon the province, the people will not hold them excusable, nor can they except the Local government, who are now directly responsible to the people of this province, from greater responsibility, in a wilful refusal to make an effort to avert what most people will regard as a serious misfortune.

IT CANNOT BE DONE.

If the worst came to the worst, and the Federal government enforced that remedial order, the people of Manitoba need never fear they will have Separate Schools as they formerly existed forced on the province by a Federal enactment. It is true the Federal authorities could vote a sum of money from the Federal treasury to be capitalized for the maintenance of Separate Schools in the Province, if such an enactment would not be in conflict with the statute of 1854, when the Clergy Reserves were disposed of, but this they will hardly attempt.

But how they can invade the Provincial Treasury, and distribute its funds for educational or other purposes, it is most difficult to foresee. The school lands are simply held in trust for the province, so there is no chance for an invasion in that quarter, and as all our subsidies come under acts of Confederation and subsequent stipulations, there is no chance of intercepting any of our receipts until they reach the treasury.

Supposing the Federal authorities were to command the provincial to apportion their educational monies between both sections of the school population, if the local authorities had no other means of defraying the command they could abolish all education, graze altogether,

apportioning the funds to the municipalities for municipal purposes, and in such a case the Federal command would be abortive. The central authorities might, of course, relieve Roman Catholics from taxation for Public Schools, but that would only be a partial restoration, and the local authorities could in turn ignore all schools that did not come within their regulations. It is an easy matter to talk of the restoration of Separate Schools as they were, but in practice it will be found absolutely impossible of accomplishment, if the province exercises its powers under provincial autonomy.

Where is that Powerful impression which big P. the Tribune said Sifton was making in Halimand? Has it crept under a hen to hatch?

The Globe of Tuesday week-end:—"It is impossible to overestimate the effect of Attorney General Sifton's work in Halimand." We'll let the Globe itself estimate the effect of that work two days later and that without any mathematical calculation by the use of small "s" words.

Goodwin, the Grit candidate in Vercheres, declared in his campaign he would insist on the restoration of Separate Schools in Manitoba. He was quoted, and the Winnipeg Tribune says it is a "grand triumph for Liberal principles." These Liberal principles must be a lot of scaly ducks anyway.

The Globe of the day before the Halimand election said:—"Mr. Sifton's statement has turned the tide in Mr. McCarthy's favor among the Orangemen of Walpole and their districts, and if he had another week's time in which to continue the work he is doing, the effect would be most pronounced when the poll was taken." How true, how true. Yes indeed, yes indeed.

The Winnipeg Tribune asserts that certain Federal government officials worked for a change in Halimand while drawing pay from the public purse. We do not know that this is the fact, but if it is, and it is conceivable, then what about Sifton? Is he 810 a day for work at home while guaranteeing in the east to air his country, and taking \$500 for traveling expenses, besides, and a R. R. pass in his pocket?

Sifton says that the remedial order from Ottawa commands the Manitoba government to restore Separate Schools, and Mr. Laurier says he does not know what it means. Then who is right? If there was an absolute command in it, we imagine Laurier could see it as well as Sifton. Now, a command from Ottawa is simply a plain request that Manitoba should look at the finding of the Privy Council and settle the difficulty, that it may be withdrawn from the notice of the Federal authorities. Sifton knows this as well as any man knows anything, but settling the trouble will not serve his purpose. It will not save the province enough against the Conservatives at Ottawa.

The sheriff sold the Nor Western newspaper on Saturday last to Mr. Bell, and it is said by the transaction creditors will lose from \$5,000 to \$6,000. It will not be long before the public will learn the newspaper business of the Nor Western, considering expenses connected with it, is a business that runs all over the country. That if giving a paper for a dollar a week, with freight on paper \$1.00 per 100 lbs., wages, telegraph, fuel, etc., at 50 per cent more than they are in these ten provinces. Add to these from one to three or more columns week free advertising for churches, concerts, entertainments, corporations and municipal business, while the job printing is given to job offices at a price that hardly pays wages. The Canadian Northwest will soon be an Eldorado for the newspaper men.

If the Catholic authorities of Manitoba are exposed to what they call Godless (purely secularized) schools, and Sifton & Co. are prone to retain Godlike institutions, then why in the name of common sense do not both unite on some common basis of religious exercises. Surely in this day of enlightenment the christian worship is not so vague in Manitoba as to be without some features that all can understand alike. At Ottawa they open and close the day's proceedings at parliament with a prayer to which Protestants, Catholics and Infidels alike subscribe. In Ontario again where a Separate School law is in force, in districts where it is considered inadvisable because of the paucity of school attendance, to have two schools in the one section, all attend a public school where religious exercises and even a Bible, written by G. W. Ross are acceptable to both, but here in poor Manitoba, where the people are scarcely able to support one set of schools they are so superlatively righteous they must either have two Gods to worship or the one approached from two opposite directions.

It is amusing to hear some of the French orators and papers of the east calling out "Protestant bigotry" when dealing with the Manitoba school case. It is true there are Protestant bigots as well as Catholic bigots, but bigotry has but little to do with the hostility to the dual system in this country. The main objection to Separate Schools springs from the fact the settlers are almost too sparse and too poor to keep up one system of schools to say nothing of the second. There would be but little objection to the second system if the people of Quebec who are sinking the Manitoba into their own pockets and support the system if they want it here.

While the election in Halimand is a marked triumph for Dr. Montague, it is not to McCarthyism what many suppose it is. Dr. Baxter, the newly elected M. P. for the Ontario House, says there was an arrangement between his friends to the effect that if he was elected unopposed, Dr. Montague would have no opposition from the Grit side of the house. Under the circumstances the explanation of the Doctor's large majority lies in the fact that in last Wednesday's contest, to respect their arrangements the body of the Grit party did not vote at all. This is doubly shown by the fact the total vote polled was much smaller than that of the last general election. The explanation is that McCarthy simply got the support of the McCarthy element of the constituency, and no more.

There is one feature of the Privy Council's decision the public would like someone to throw light on. The first and second decisions both say the Manitoba Act of 1890, which compels Catholics and Protestants alike to pay taxes to the public schools created by it, is perfectly legal, and the second decision intimates that another act may be passed by either the Local or Federal House relieving one section of the community from this same taxation under the valid act of 1890. To most minds it would be better if the parties interested had set to work to evolve legislation on this school matter suitable to the requirements of the country than to remain squabbling over the meaning of old enactments in conflict with one another.

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LARGEST OF DIAMONDS.

SAID TO HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE POPE AT ROME.

It Weighs More Than Nine Hundred and Seventy-One Carats Which, in Avoided, is Equivalent to Nearly Half a Pound.

According to a cablegram received from London, the pope has received from the president of the Transvaal republic a diamond weighing 971 carats. The stone was found in the Jagersfontein mines and is declared to be the largest known.

The cablegram states that the monster diamond is of a bluish white cast and practically perfect, its only blemish being a tiny spot in the centre, invisible to the naked eye.

Why the president of the Transvaal republic has sent it to the pope is not made clear. It is not to be supposed that he has made a present to his holiness of a stone valued at \$1,000,000. Probably the object was to get a free advertisement for his little republic and the big diamond found there.

The *Illustrated Circular* prints a picture of the diamond, showing its actual size. This was received from a correspondent in South Africa. The *Circular* presumes that the diamond referred to is the one known as the Jagersfontein Kewelsdor.

It was picked up by a native while he was leading a train. Although a white overseer was standing near him, he managed to hide it and keep it on his person for some time. It turned out, however, that he did not wish to steal it, for he delivered it personally to the manager. As a reward he received £50 and a horse and saddle.

The exact weight of the diamond is 971 carats, or about seven and one-quarter ounces avoirdupois. It therefore weighs more than half a pound.

In its present condition it measures three inches in length, one and a half inches in thickness, two and a half inches in width, and one and a half inches in its greatest breadth and one and a half inches at its least breadth. It is of a beautiful bluish white and is shaped like the broad end of an arrow.

The flaw in it is believed to be more serious than is stated in the cable dispatch. It is a black spot near the middle. It could be cut in two, however, so as to leave out the flaw. It would then be made two of the largest diamonds in existence. At the time of its discovery it was valued at \$1,000,000.

The largest cut diamond in the world is the Orloff in the scepter of the emperor of Russia, weighing 194 carats. It is in the rose form, with a flat surface below. According to one story, it formed the eye of an Indian idol and was stolen by a French deserter. In 1772 Count Orloff bought it for Empress Catherine at a cost of \$500,000.

The next largest is the Pitt diamond, bought in 1792 by Mr. Pitt, governor of Madras, for \$100,000. The duke of Orleans, regent of France, bought it for Louis XV. for \$200,000. It is now reported to be worth twice that sum. At the time of the revolution it was sent to the king but was kept in the vault of the secret of state used by Napoleon I. It weighs 136 carats, but originally weighed 140.

After this comes the Florentine, or the Duke, now in the possession of the emperor of Austria. It is of a yellow color, or, oblong in shape and cut in the rose pattern. Its exact weight is given as 135 carats. Tradition says it was lost by Charles the Bold at the battle of Granson and picked up by a Swiss soldier who sold it for a few pence.

The Kohinoor, the largest diamond in the possession of the British crown, is believed to be the finest and purest in existence. It also has the most singular history. The Indians legend says that it was found in one of the Goleconda mines, near the Krishna river, and was worn 3,000 years by Karma, one of the heroes celebrated in the Mahabharata. It passed through many hands to Baber, founder of the Mogul dynasty. The French explorer, the French explorer, saw it in 1692.

It was then of the shape of half an egg and weighed 290 carats. It had been reduced to that weight from 795 carats by an unskillful stone-cutter.

In 1739 it passed to Nadir Shah, the Persian invader of India, who gave it its name of Kohinoor, or mountain of light. In 1819, when the conquest of the Punjab was finally completed, it was surrendered to the British, and in 1840 it was presented to Queen Victoria in the exhibition of 1857. In London it weighed 184.19 carats. Since then it has been recut and now weighs 108.93.

It has been conjectured that the Kohinoor originally formed parts of the same stone as the Orloff and the Duke, then having once been in the possession of the Great Mogul. A stone of 132 carats captured by Abbas Mirza at the storming of Cochin in 1682 may be a third fragment. This was long used by a peasant as a flint for striking fire.

Queen Victoria's Travels. When the Queen travels abroad her whole establishment, from her bed to her bath, from her wardrobe to her carriage, from her butler and baker and confectioner's baker, one should almost have thought the baker might have staid at home, when the journey is to France, for the French and Austrian bread, of which her Majesty is so fond, is at all times at hand, and any baker there would make her exactly such little loaves as her Polish baker, Mr. S. Petrovsky, who rules over the bakers at Buckingham Palace, that is to say, who supplies her own table with his wonderful little rolls, both the French and the royal household are supplied by the ordinary "palace bakers." Some of the little loaves cost twenty-five cents, and until quite lately they were sent down to Windsor from the palace every morning except Sundays, when her Majesty does not insist on new bread. In fact, she prefers it a little stale.

Light-Fingered Royals. To believe a French royal, there are now fewer than 4,000 women caught every year in stealing during shopping expeditions, a habit euphemistically styled kleptomania. The number of titled ladies committing this strange and deadly while examining the fashions of Paris, he tells us, is almost incredible. Among the recent culprits were a Russian Duchess and the daughter of a reigning sovereign. As a rule, these more distinguished offenders are let off on the payment of a nominal sum for the relief of the poor, and when the shopkeeper is known to be rich, the sum exacted rises to as much as 10,000 francs. The police authorities consent to this sort of condonation.

A COOKING SCHOOL PIE.

Give me a spoon of oleo, ma. And the sodium alkali. For I'm going to make a pie, mamma. I'm going to make a pie. For John will be hungry and tired, ma. And his tissues will decompose. So give me a gramme of phosphate. And the carbon and cellulose.

Now give me a chunk of caseine, ma. To shorten the thermic fat. And hand me the oxygen bottle, ma. And look at the thermostat. And the electric oven's cold. Just turn it on half half an ohm. For I want to have supper ready. As soon as John comes home.

Now pass me the neutral dope, mamma. And the phosphate too for now I think. And the new twig writer to quit. And John will need more phosphate food. To help his badma bit.—Chicago News.

PRETTY TOUGH YARNS.

These Concern the Tenacity of Life Seen in Animals and Reptiles.

A French professor has been making experiments which prove that of all animals the rabbit is the most tenacious of life. He shot a rabbit up in a block of ice and the next morning the animal seemed to be very comfortable and not to know that anything unusual had been going on. Next day the rabbit, in being able to bear great cold, came in front of the sheep, the goat and the pig all domestic animals. The cat was completely outclassed.

One would think that the wild creatures would be the hardiest and as a matter of fact some of them do show almost miraculous tenacity of life as all old trappers can testify. A Canadian trapper found long ago that one of his traps had disappeared. A month afterwards the people of the place where the trap had been set killed a wolf with that very trap attached to his leg. The animal was reduced almost to a skeleton. That he should have been able to drag the trap about for a month through 100 miles of snow, is something to be wondered at.

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Going down to the lower creation, the power of clinging to life seems to increase. Every one knows how hard it is to kill a snake and the old superstition about the pieces living till sunset seems to have been quite justified. Other reptiles show even more wonderful powers. A snake is sometimes found to kill a man. An English writer, a snake tells of one that lived six months after its brain was taken out, moving its limbs and walking as before. Another lived twenty-three days after its head was cut off, and the third lived twenty-four and it gives a quarter of an hour after it was separated from the body.

Next lower in the scale of creation come the fishes, and no fisherman need be told that they will flop about in the great fish ponds after their brains have been pulled out of their natural habitat. But the champion of all fish in this respect is the shark. It is so hard to kill sharks that they often live when life would seem impossible. A shark was once caught by the sailors of the French ship *Roostard*, and was split open and cleaned as one would clean a fish, his heart and all his other internal organs being taken out. The body was then thrown overboard, when, to the astonishment of all, it swam off, and the fisherman, who had cut it off, of course, it could not have lived long, but it is wonderful that it kept so much life in its body as to be able to swim at all.

Starting a Fashion. There was once a tanner of hides in London who had an idea. And out of the idea he built up a fashion, and from the fashion he drew a fortune. This is how he did it. After the hides of the Indians were sent to him, he found that there were always a great pile of strips and scraps left over, some of them quite large enough to be made into a man's shoe. Before that time tanners had sold these odds and ends for punk, and the scraps were sold for nothing, and the price that they received hardly paid the cost of loading them into freight wagons. But one tanner was not satisfied with that way of doing business. "I'll make shoes of these scraps," he said.

"But you can't," chimed all the wise tanners who knew him. "The leather won't take black dressing—it's too sunny and porous."

"Then I'll make yellow shoes," said he.

The wise tanners all held up their hands and shook their heads sadly. A bright man was going astray.

But the tanner reasoned that because men had worn black shoes for so long, they would not wear yellow shoes.

"So I'll make yellow shoes," he said again. And that was his idea.

Then he went to work on the scraps, and it was long before his yellow shoes were associated with the mud and separated from it only by the stature of an aristocrat. That was only a little more than half a dozen years ago, but today the russet shoe is known all over the world. Scarcely a shoe is made that is not of its manufacture, and whole hides, the best that can be obtained, are none too good.

Catholics in the United States. According to the statistics of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, as furnished by the official Catholic Directory, the membership of the church in this country increased 175,822 in 1894. The figures were furnished by the chancellors of the various dioceses throughout the land.

They show that the Catholic population of the United States is 9,677,826. In the whole country there are seventeen Archbishops, seventy-five Bishops, 1,663 priests, 3,600 churches with resident pastors, 3,600 missions, with churches, making 9,600 churches in all; 3,394 stations and chapels, nine universities, twenty-eight seminaries for secular students, with 2,120 students, seventy-seven seminaries of the regular orders, such as the Society of Jesus, etc., with 1,474 students; 182 high schools for boys, 699 high schools for girls, 3,731 parochial schools, with 775,075 pupils; 239 orphan asylums, sheltering 3,667 orphans; 821 charitable institutions; the total number of children in Catholic institutions is 918,297.

The figures, compared with the figures for the previous year, show the following increases: Priests, 239; churches, 580; universities, 1; orphan asylums, 2; parochial schools, 10,000; charitable institutions, 68; children cared for in charitable institutions, 5,063.

BALD AND TOOTHLESS.

NOT A FLATTERING PROSPECT FOR US, TO SAY THE LEAST.

Dr. Charles E. Page of Boston Writes in the Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette of a Tendency of the Age—Hollow Cheeks Made Plump by Chewing Raw Grain.

Nature is in some respects a patient and long-suffering creditor; but she never fails, finally, to collect, with interest and costs, although it may in some matters be a question of generations, even centuries.

In spite of many generations of unnatural treatment of the head, whose best protection is found in a good body of hair, we still have something to be thankful for; and, although a considerable portion of our lives, and we continue to have teeth, though finding small use for them in these days of soft food, hot and moist, but they give us endless trouble, pain and expense.

One hundred years ago New York, with 50,000 population, had but one dentist, and tradition says that he was not very busy. Now it has a dentist for every 1,000, and many of these are driven with work. Doubtless all of them could have their teeth fixed, if they were not being able to bear great cold, came in front of the sheep, the goat and the pig all domestic animals. The cat was completely outclassed.

Congestion of the scalp-skin makes us bald; the teeth die of anæmia. That the race is destined to become absolutely bald and toothless seems evident enough to many thoughtful men. It is too late.

Owing to heredity and continued wrong treatment, men are often entirely bald at the age of thirty; while women, having only heredity to contend with, since their hats and bonnets are not held in place by a tight curling iron, maintain their hair a rule till very late in life, often till the final close.

In the matter of the teeth, both sexes, having to contend with both heredity and present personal abuse, are likely to have full sets of artificial teeth before middle age, and many of them before the age of thirty. There are other things to consider besides the influences mentioned, but the writer is convinced that these are the most active and powerful. Among the causes of decay of the teeth we may mention the following: the practice of walking hot and cold drinks, the effect being much worse than when these are alternated with short intervals, as is the practice with many in the use of tea, coffee, and ice water at meals; tobacco has the effect to poison the gum, and then, when the teeth are old, and, often before, middle life; the careless use of the toothpick constantly irritates and wounds the gums, and that alone would cause a tendency to recession and consequent lack of the natural support of the teeth, which grow loose and have to be drawn.

The free use of artificial sugar, sweets, bonbons, pastry, etc., has been condemned on the score of injury to the teeth. These substances are a nuisance to the organism as a whole, without doing any good to the teeth. In fact, loading the circulation with waste, in some cases preventing appetite for enough plain food to well nourish the body, or the gross quantity of food taken causing dyspepsia, and many other evils, it is not surprising that this indirectly affects the teeth. It is the opinion of the soundest men among dentists, as well as others who have made a study of the question, that the natural exercise of chewing that alone can keep the teeth solid and sound, especially in view of the inherited tendency. This, together with poor general health, is doubtless the real cause of our failure to keep the teeth, as all our artificial dentists, who have a tendency to the blacksmith's right arm larger than the left, and if the latter were kept in a sling, instead of having a modicum of exercise, it would either grow steadily smaller till in time it fell off, or it would, if not that, the muscles of the loading arm would rapidly become degenerated with fat. This is what happens to certain ones who eat freely, indulge in improper foods, and take too little exercise, and who have a tendency to the blacksmith's right arm larger than the left, and if the latter were kept in a sling, instead of having a modicum of exercise, it would either grow steadily smaller till in time it fell off, or it would, if not that, the muscles of the loading arm would rapidly become degenerated with fat. 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